

Although as humans "Endowed by our Creator," as we are told by the Declaration of Independence, "with certain inalienable rights," these have not been given to us without responsibilities. There exists in this country especially, a legacy of liberty which has been passed on from generation to generation, safeguarded and sustained by its citizens. But this freedom is not immutable. We, as Americans, must rise to the responsibilities that face us. When not backed by people, by Americans motivated with the same passion and fervor as the founders of this land, our freedom is but a feeble idea quickly whisked away.

Has it become this today within our very borders? Although it must still be protected from outside threats, the real threat, the real danger is right here. It is threatened every single time a human life is disregarded or disrespected. With every unborn child prevented from ever taking its first breath, freedom is stifled and its very heart violated. With every hateful word or deed against a person's race, consent is given to forfeit the liberation of an entire country. It truly is a dreadful form of poverty when such crimes against life are committed. How can a man stand upon his feet and proclaim his freedom, when he holds the stolen liberty of another in his hands? How can he defend the very thing that he has denied to others? No, it is not possible to secure for oneself what has been usurped from others. When the value of freedom is overlooked in a single human form, it is overlooked for all of humanity. Without compromise, this freedom must be defended and all obstacles and impediments standing before it must be defeated.

Our obligation to protect freedom begins within our homes, in our day-to-day life choices which affect others. What we value shows in our daily lives, and is reflected in our government. We are under a government put in place by ourselves and for ourselves. What is allowable, what is just, what is humane is before us to decide. We make the decision not merely by how we vote, but by how we speak, how we act, how we live.

In our refusal to forfeit human rights and dignity through our every action, we become a powerful testament to true freedom and liberty for all. To act in this way is our obligation; this is what we have been called to do by those who first ensured for us our freedom. We must live as free people, people valuing the liberty of all. Only then shall we truly be free. Only then shall this freedom be our possession, and only then will we be able to defend it from those who might attempt to snatch it from us.

RECOGNIZING THE PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the state of Pennsylvania's Collegiate Academy High School Academic Decathlon team as they prepare to conquer the championship title for the 2003 United States Academic Decathlon (USAD) National Competition.

Pennsylvania's Academic Decathlon team is comprised of students and coaches from the Collegiate Academy High School, located in the 3rd Congressional District. The Collegiate Academy team has already found victory in the local, regional and state USAD competitions and is anxiously awaiting the final national competition scheduled to be held at the end of April in the school's hometown of Erie, Pa.

I'd like to take the time today and recognize these talented students and their coaches, who have mentored and inspired the students throughout the entire school year.

The 2003 members of Pennsylvania's Academic Decathlon Team include: Joshua Cohick, Mara DiTullio, Jarrod Fedor, Noelle Lucas, Brian McNair, Andrew Narusewicz, Eden Roseborough, David Tran and Gregory Stachelek. The team's coaches are Carolyn Huzinec and Paula Lucas.

For more than 20 years, the USAD National competition has brought high school students together to challenge their intellects on various levels and provide an advanced educational opportunity. In the pursuit of academic excellence, academic decathlon teams must vigorously prepare to compete in ten different categories. The winning team will be recognized as the most prestigious high school in the nation.

I believe this scholastic competition to be a grand endeavor for high school students across America. Its continuous success is a prime example of our nation's enthusiasm for education. I am proud that Pennsylvania's 3rd Congressional District's own Collegiate Academy High School will represent the state this year in the national competition and I wish them the best of luck.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Pennsylvania's Academic Decathlon team and their coaches as they compete to become America's most prestigious high school.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, During Rollcall vote No. 122 on the Meehan Amendment to H.R. 1036, the Gun Manufacturer's Liability Act, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE W. HINDS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great Arkansan and a leading citizen of Trumann, Arkansas. I am proud to recognize Wayne W. Hinds in the United States Congress for his invaluable contributions to his community, his state and his Nation.

Wayne was born and raised in Trumann, Arkansas, and even starred on the football team at Trumann High School. During his senior season in 1955, he set an Arkansas state high school football record for the most touchdowns scored in a single game. After graduation in 1956, Wayne decided to remain close to home and attended Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, where he majored in business administration.

On November 14, 1959, Wayne married Glenda Moye. He and Glenda had two daughters, Tamera Taylor and Misti Sims and are the proud grandparents of Raven Dawn Taylor, Brett Taylor, Mackenzie Sims and Bailee Sims.

In August 1967, Wayne began the job that has become the symbol of his commitment to his community. That year, Wayne was appointed Superintendent, Drainage District Number Seven. This jurisdiction covers 190,000 acres, 300 miles of channels and 65 miles of levees along the St. Francis River and Right Hand Chute of Little River. In February 1978, Wayne was elected General Manager and Executive Secretary of Drainage District Number Seven and since then has led the effort to protect the valuable waterways of Poinsett County.

In addition to his remarkable service in his professional career, Wayne has also been an important leader in his community. Wayne is a member and past president of the Trumann Booster's Club. He also served for many years on the Board of Directors of the Trumann Lions Club.

As children, we all learn the importance of "remembering where you came from". Wayne not only remembers . . . he serves. He embodies the old fashion values of service, leadership and commitment to his community that have made our State and our Nation great. On behalf of Congress, I pay tribute to Wayne Hinds for his tireless service and unwavering commitment to the people of Poinsett County, the people of Arkansas and the people of the United States.

THE STOP TAKING OUR HEALTH PRIVACY ACT OF 2003

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, in a few days, the Bush Administration's modifications to the Federal medical privacy rule will be in effect. Federal medical privacy protections are important for protecting the integrity of our health care system. Many Americans have been taking counterproductive steps, such as giving inaccurate information to their physicians or